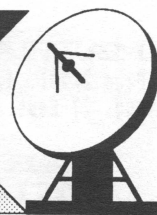


MATWATCH

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VOL. 4, NO. 34

SUMMER SLAM EDITION

AUGUST 27-SEPT. 2

At Madison Square Garden

MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN HITCHLESS;

HOGAN/WARRIOR ROLL IN MAIN EVENT

NEW YORK---Perhaps creating a pilot for a new daytime soap, **THE YOUNG AND THE MACHO**, Randy Savage and real-life wife Liz Poffo united their World Wrestling Federation characters without a hitch in the most-heralded TV wedding since Luke and Laura on **GENERAL HOSPITAL** ten years ago Monday night in the "Match Made in Heaven" finale of **SUMMER SLAM IV**.

The nuptials overshadowed the victory of Hulk Hogan and The Ultimate Warrior over the Sgt. Slaughter-led "Triangle of Terror" in the final match of the evening.

The Knot Is Tied In MSG

In a gown so flowing, it will probably fill the column of **USA TODAY**'s Jeannie Williams, Elizabeth Hewlett Poffo accepted the ring of Savage amid brilliant closeup videography.

As Savage was given the question of his vows, he answered with the trademark, "OHNNNNH YEHNNNNH!"

Savage milked the crowd better than a game-show host waiting to tell a contestant if he's given the correct answer to a \$64,000 question before saying his version of "I do."

Coming at the end of the nearly three-hour pay-per-view special, the "Match Made in Heaven" ended in classic Vince McMahon storybook "happily ever after" fashion. No breakups from Ted DiBiase, Sherri Martel or any rumored interfering parties. Not even a hint. The ceremony did not even contain the words, "Let them speak now, or forever hold their peace (which is now eliminated from most religious and secular wedding ceremonies).

The question now is whether Savage will make a return to **WWF** rings as an active competitor, which insiders say he is continuing to resist, despite the rehiring of brother Lanny Poffo (The Genius) as a replacement for John Tolos (Coach).

HART NABS I-C TITLE

NEW YORK---In one of the most brutal **WWF** pay-per-view matches ever, Bret Hart forced Curt Hennig to concede to the sharpshooter (scorpion) deathlock to win the Intercontinental title in 18:05 Monday night.

The match featured 14 near-falls and a Hennig sleeper before a rare concession loss.

A pre-match shot of Hart's parents Stu and Helen in the crowd telegraphed the finish. Staccato chants of "LET'S GO BRET!" accompanied Hart's charges.

Hart carried the early offense until being railed at the 6-minute mark. He then rallied for a two-count with a reverse cradle before Hennig came back with a snap neckbreaker and cradle for two near-falls.

(Continued on Page 2)

L.O.D. WINS TRIPLE CROWN

NEW YORK---Following up on a knock on the noggin with Jimmy Hart's helmet, Road Warrior Hawk came off the top rope with his trademark clothesline to set up Animal pinning Brian Knobbs to win the **WWF** world tag team championship in 7:45 Monday night.

The victory makes The Legion of Doom the first team ever to win the tag belts of the **AWA**, **NWA** and **WWF**.

(Continued on Page 2)

Col., Adnan Flee From Hogan Pin

In a match which didn't equal the crowd heat of the earlier title bouts until the post-match posing, the Hogan/Warrior team took the handicap match over Slaughter/Gen. Adnan/Col. Mustafa in 12:53.

Hogan tossed powder in Sarge's face and followed with the legdrop for the pin after Ult chased the two Middle East heels to the locker room with a chair.

The match went 2:06 before a lockup and the Hogan/Warrior duo double-pummeled and clotheslined Slaughter.

Adnan finally scored some offense by scratching Hogan's back and Mustafa, in shades of 1984, applied the camel clutch to Hulk at 6:45.

Warrior finally bounced Sarge off the top rope at 8:30 before tagging in. After a short offensive spurt, the heels began working on Ult and Sarge attempted to finish him but Ult lunged to tag in Hogan at the 12-minute mark.

Hogan immediately scored with the foot to the face. Warrior chased Mustafa and Adnan with a chair before the final move at 12:53.

Hulk then called out guest referee Sid Justice to join him in post-match co-posing, which drew more crowd noise than most of the match.

MATCH RATING: RESTHOLD-PLUS. Sarge worked harder than anyone but, hopefully, this brings a merciful end to this now-meaningless feud.

**SLAM
SCOREBOARD**

**HART CAPTURES I-C
BELT OVER HENNIG**
(Continued from Page 1)

Following an outside brawl, the tide turned in favor of Hennig. At the 11:42 mark, Curt went for a sleeper but Hart rallied to break it. With another chant of LET'S GO BRET!, Hennig reversed a crucifix try for a 2 3/4 count, then Hart escaped the Perfect-plex on 2. Bret rallied for a suplex, small package, Russian leg sweep and crash from the top rope for four near-falls.

Curt came back with a reverse cradle for a two-count before being posted in a terrific bump. Hart went for the sharpshooter but decked Coach from the apron. Hennig kicked Hart from behind and began to go for an apparent figure-4 but Hart reversed it into the scorpion finish in 18:05.
MATCH RATING: PILEDRIIVER...well-booked and intense heat.

**VIRGIL SNAGS MILLION
DOLLAR BELT**

In a long stretch from his Soul Train Jones days in Memphis, Virgil rolled onto Ted DiBiase in 13:10 to win the Million \$ Belt after ramming DiBiase into the steel cornerpost after Ted had unlaced the turnbuckle cover.

As in all of the title matches, enormous crowd heat developed as Virg ambushed Ted from the start and followed with three clotheslines, the last one sending DiBiase over the top. The first five minutes were a testimony to DiBiase's extraordinary selling ability.

At the 5:45 mark, DiBiase rallied and tossed Virgil over the steel ring steps and scored two near-falls. But Virgil rallied to apply Ted's own million-dollar dream sleeper. In a surprise turn, Sherri Martel creamed Virg from behind but instead of a disqualification, ref Dave Hebner ordered Sherri out of the arena and kept the match going.

DiBiase whipped Virg into the ref at 11:08 and scored two suplexes and a piledriver before unlacing the buckle cover which led to his denouement. RATING: POWERSLAM.

NATURAL DISASTERS D. BUSHWHACKERS (6:26): In one of only two heel victories on the night, the Whackers gave the NDs a 3 Stooges eye-pluck before the match but never really generated much offense.

The finish came when Earthquake Tenta pinned Luke Williams with a tremor. The NDs then went after the crutch-bound Andre the Giant but the Road Warriors stood them off, obviously launching their first WWF tag title feud. RATING: RESTHOLD.

DAVEY BOY SMITH/RICKY STEAMBOAT/KERRY VON ERICH D. POWER & GLORY/WARLORD (10:43): Much better than you think, although Warlord offered little but the faces put on a speed and offensive show in the first five minutes and the crowd heat was perfect for an opener. The finish came when Steamboat scored his dragonfly body block on Roma. RATING: POWERSLAM.

BIG BOSSMAN D. MOUNTIE (9:35): Crowd cooled off for this one after the heat from Virgil-DiBiase. The end came when Bubba reversed a piledriver try and gave Rougeau a spinebuster. Far superior was the post-match and later-show camerawork following the Mountie as he was hauled off for a night in the New York cooler. RATING: RESTHOLD (more on TV work later).

**L.O.D. NOW KINGS
OF ALL THREE**
(Continued from Page 1)

The Nasty Boys had better matches with the Steiners in WCW and the Roadies looked much stronger in the mid-'80s but the no-DQ brawling was not bad. Hawk scored with an early enzuiguri before Jerry Saggs sprayed him in the face.

Hawk was later creamed with a crate of Cokes. Animal finally tagged in at 6:50 and began whirling to set up the finish. The Nasties used Hart's helmet on Animal at 7:10 for a two-count but Hawk snatched it away, which led to the end of the Nasty Boys' five-month reign. RATING: DRAW.

I.R. SCHYSTER D. GREG VALENTINE (6:07): Try as they did, this one never really had a prayer after the L.O.D. victory. Valentine went for the figure-4 at 5:10 but Rotunda made the ropes. Greg missed an elbow but recovered to single kneedrop I.R.S. As he went to reapply the figure-4, I.R.S. small-packed him in the Sting-over-Flair finish for the fall. RATING: RESTHOLD-PLUS.

SLAM SIDELIGHTS

Not enough can be said about the production of this show. The only real glitch came with three seconds of black during the opener. But the quick-cut interviews saw virtually every key winner get either a pre-match or post-match spot and this show proved, ironically in the WWF, that you don't need a dozen matches on a three-hour show. Eight events and the wedding were just right...The order of matches, save I.R.S.-Valentine, was almost perfect in building the crowd to a crescendo and Hart-Hennig was beautifully worked...This was the right announce combo. Gorilla/Heenan/Piper played off each other well, yet never became overbearing...John Phillipelli's handiwork was magnificent in the trailing of the Mountie in a van through town to jail. The closing scene of Rougeau being locked in with a drunk and then turning to find an apparent gay in the cell may have been in poor taste but the staging was flawless...Ric Flair didn't even have to be there to get "over" in the fashion Heenan was used to take the Flair heavyweight title belt to Hogan's dressing room...Post-SLAM angles: Slaughter will become angry his partners deserted him at the end and become a face; we'll likely find out Warrior did not return for the post-match celebration because he was jumped by Jake Roberts and the Undertaker, as hinted at during the show...All in all, this was---in my view---the best WWF pay-per-view show to date and probably the best for any group this year. Other than WRESTLEMANIA III, SLAM also had the loudest crowd heat for any WWF spectacular I can remember...I hope this will be a keynote to all groups to begin allowing matches which need adequate time to have it. Hart-Hennig could easily have gone 25-30 minutes and not lost interest but was right on target for its positioning in the show.

MATWATCH 25 SCALE

CROWD ENTHUSIASM.....	4.6
ANNOUNCING.....	4.0
QUALITY OF MATCHES.....	3.2
TOTAL PRODUCTION.....	4.5
OVERALL EXCELLENCE OF SHOW.....	4.2
TOTAL RATING.....	20.5



SO YOU THINK THIS IS ALL GREAT FUN???

I said just because the end of MATWATCH is near didn't mean I would stop speaking out on issues in wrestling. However, the events of the last week have almost been as bizarre as an episode of THE OUTER LIMITS, only with none of the science-fiction charm or appeal.

PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

In a followup to an item in the Aug. 12 issue of MATWATCH, a quote attributed to WCW executive Jim Herd, it is not the view of MATWATCH or its contributors to question the honesty of former WCW wrestler Ric Flair. MATWATCH was unable to obtain a phone number of Flair for a response. We apologize to any damage to reputation Flair has experienced as a result. Herd has issued a denial to MATWATCH and to WCW President Jack Petrik that the remark was made for publication. However, it is the contention of MATWATCH and its publisher that the remark was not prefaced as off-the-record or not for print, according to notes taken from the conversation and we stand by the attribution.

Flair's attorney Dennis Guthrie issued this statement to MATWATCH Monday: "I know few people in or out of the wrestling industry that have the integrity Ric Flair does. He is one of the most honest people I know."

what was intended to get at the heart of truth of an issue. Mind you, when one is a journalist, truth is often somewhere in the middle when you are dealing with two polarized parties. One does the best one can to try to get at it and in the wrestling newsletter business, when one often deals with inaccessible parties, efforts to get all sides are, at best, difficult.

I will not recount the answer to the third question of Herd. It has been documented in the Aug. 12 issue in a four-paragraph story. One of the two primary issues here is Herd's contention that the remark was made "off-the-record." For younger readers (and younger bulletin publishers) who are not educated to that phrase, off-the-record means one does not intend for the information to be quoted either by name or at all.

In 23 years of print and broadcast journalism, I've been accused of many things. I've taken shots from politicians, including former U.S. Rep. Jack Brinkley, who once tried to have me fired, alleging I unfairly portrayed him the villain in a fight over a federal highway project (I was vindicated when Brinkley's remarks were videotaped and people from a neighboring county stated on camera they were "at war with Congressman Brinkley"). Think that was fun? I'd never had a cross word with Brinkley in four years of TV and he had even written me complimentary letters. But he never again spoke to me. Former U.S. Sen. Herman Talmadge walked out on a news conference during his losing re-election campaign when I asked how much damage he felt a Senate Ethics Committee investigation into his finances had done to his reputation in Georgia. A former aide to Columbus GA Mayor Harry Jackson, John Simpkins, once threatened to have me thrown off the sixth floor of the Columbus Government Center because he was "sick of (my) negative and unfair reporting on" his boss. My news director made that the lead story on WTVN that evening, along with a strong editorial response that WTVN would not tolerate that kind of treatment of its reporters. Bullets fired at a WTVN news car in 1980 were intended for me. A police investigation confirmed my reports of animal control workers using city trucks as moving vans for friends and fellow workers. That investigation came after a news photographer was lured to a site where what turned out to be a bogus drug bust was said to be taking place. The photographer wasn't hit but four bullet holes were left in the news vehicle. The van used in the shooting was eventually found to be an animal control van. Yes, I've been through the gamut as a journalist but never, never, never have I been accused of deliberately quoting off-the-record information in print or broadcast...until now and in, off all things, a mat newsletter going out of trying to end business in January.

The painful part is the accusation comes from someone with whom I have had cordial relations, despite criticism in this space of his company and enormous numbers of calls in many leading wrestling bulletins for his dismissal, a bandwagon we have not joined. I speak of Jim Herd. Despite the barbs tossed at him and strong feelings against him from friends both in and out of this profession, I like and respect the man and will continue to after this.

Originally, this column was written with the intention of omitting specific names because of the cloud of legal action hanging over the issue. However, with the item you will read in the adjoining column, it is my intention to detail the chronology of what has led to this turn of events. Relationships will likely be severed by so doing but I have a vested interest in preserving my integrity. You can be your own judge.

More than two weeks ago, stories surfaced in wrestling circles, which were published by no less than five mat bulletins I read indicating that World Championship Wrestling, Inc., had made an offer of the booking post to Ric Flair in a final negotiating session to secure his return to the promotion. None of the publications I read attributed that fact to any source. Questions were raised in my mind enough so that I felt fairness compelled calling WCW headquarters and asking if the story was valid.

I called Jim Herd and as I have documented in my notes, asked three specific questions about the claims. First, recounting what other publications had claimed, was Flair indeed offered the booking job? I was told absolutely not. I followed up by asking if a meeting was even held. I was told that was a confidential matter. I then asked a third question which has become the focus of this issue: if you did not offer him the book, where do you think this story is coming from? The answer to that question has created a furor of enormous proportions for me in

THIS WEEK'S**HEADLINES****GRAHAM NEWS CONFERENCE
POSTPONED INDEFINITELY**

PHILADELPHIA---Former WWF champion Superstar Billy Graham postponed his planned news conference here last Wednesday.

Sources close to Graham told MATWATCH the ex-wrestler, who suffers from degenerative bone disease from steroid use, was considering holding the media event this week; however, others expect the briefing to be postponed indefinitely.

Insiders say Graham, expected to announce plans for a lawsuit against parties affiliated with Titan Sports and a pharmaceutical company, was threatened with a countersuit by Titan for potential damage to Monday night's SUMMER SLAM and other WWF events.

**TITAN ANNOUNCES CHOICE
OF TESTING FIRM**

STAMFORD CT---The World Wrestling Federation announced last week its selection of Comprehensive Drug Testing, Inc., of Los Angeles to administer its planned steroid testing program.

In a media release, Titan officials said CDT will handle the program "in conjunction with an independent medical review officer and using an independent laboratory."

CDT is headed by Dr. Kim Jasper, who supervises drug testing for the NBA and major league baseball. The release states CDT and the WWF have consulted with Dr. Brian Finkle of the University of Utah Medical Center in setting up the program.

WWF spokesman Steve Planamenta told MATWATCH: "Some have questioned our motives but we really do want to be an example to the rest of the industry. This is a start."

**CRUISE STARTS
"IN THE NEWS"**

PORTLAND ME---Former WORLD WIDE WRESTLING host Chris Cruise is launching a new mat publication, IN THE NEWS, this fall.

Cruise is compiling stories on pro wrestling appearing in mainline newspapers during spring and summer, particularly on the steroid controversy, for IN THE NEWS.

"I am especially interested in obtaining local letters to the editor, columns and magazine articles, as well as articles that appeared in national media," says Cruise.

STEVE BEVERLY

(Continued from Page 3)

Herd may not feel mutually but I feel this is essential to my self-respect.

I received a call Thursday of last week. Without a hello, Herd said I had succeeded in getting him fired. He insisted his remark was off-the-record. I referred to my notes. There were three items during the conversation I recalled and specifically marked as off-record at his request and they were not published. Could I have erred? I am a human being, so the answer is yes. But difficult as this is, it is my contention the alleged inflammatory remark was made with no prefacing of it as off-record or not for print. Herd said he could not believe I would "do this" to him. I calmly answered I didn't attempt to "do anything to" him but it, unfortunately, is a case of my word against his. The conversation was not recorded. You can take my word or reject it but while I have made human mistakes as anyone does as a journalist, I have never quoted information I have been told unequivocally was confidential.

Herd asked if I would talk to Jack Petrik. I said I would but would not say something I did not believe to be true. I tried Petrik twice and failed to reach him until Monday. More on that shortly.

In the process, I was called Friday by Dennis Guthrie, attorney for Ric Flair. I was not able to reach him until Monday. I had been warned over the weekend a libel suit was being threatened, so I was prepared for Guthrie's call. Much of our talk we agreed would be confidential. But Guthrie demanded a retraction and apology to Flair and indicated I would receive a letter suggesting the possibility of legal action for printing the quote attributed to Herd if I did not comply. I told Guthrie I would do the following: state that it is not my personal intent, nor any contributor of this newsletter, to question the honesty of Flair and would issue an apology (albeit reluctantly) for any damage of reputation. But I told Guthrie I would not retract a quote I believe to have been made on-record and clearly attributed to another source. Further, I told Guthrie I tried twice to obtain a phone number to reach Ric and failed. I insisted any statement include a response from Flair or Guthrie, as his legal representative, so there would be no question both sides of the story were covered. The statement was faxed to Guthrie and he agreed it was sufficient.

Later in the day, I had two conversations with Petrik in which I recounted my stance on the issue and stated I understood if TBS wished to sever media relations with me because of the sensitivity. The bulk of my conversation with Jack I agreed would be confidential. Petrik did agree the proper answer to all of my questions should have been "no comment." Further, he stated he held no animosity toward me. In our second conversation, Petrik said he would like to have Herd write MATWATCH a letter, which will likely be okayed by the TBS legal department. Petrik agreed the letter would be subject to my satisfaction that I did not attempt to quote off-record information. I said that would be fine and would agree to publish the letter in the immediate issue after receiving it.

To be honest, if my quote had been made on WBBJ-TV or in my role as a columnist for the Columbus (GA) Ledger-Enquirer, I would have told Guthrie our attorneys would handle it. But as MATWATCH, I have no lawyer, nor expense or liability insurance for a legal fight. So I reluctantly agreed to the statement you see on page 3. I consulted my closest friend in journalism, senior Ledger-Enquirer writer Richard Hyatt, who advised me he knew it was not what I wanted to do but was best under the circumstances. The vast bulk of newsletter readers revere Flair akin to a deity and the same bulk are so anti-Herd I hardly doubt Ric has been harmed. But for the record, page 3 is our official statement.

What this does bring into focus, in my opinion and strictly mine, is the ridiculous state into which the entire wrestling and newsletter business has evolved. In the next two issues, I will devote a two-part column to "A Look at Us," some candid and painful observations about this form of journalism.

THUNDERMOUNTAIN DIES

PHILADELPHIA---Independent wrestler David Mosiur, known as Chief Thundermountain, was found dead here Aug. 17 of undisclosed causes. Mosiur, 31, had worked for the UWA and IWCCW groups and once was co-holder of the WWA tag title. Mosiur, of Mt. Holly NJ, was trained by Larry Sharpe and was noted for working with autistic children in his off-ring hours.

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IDIOTS

Aug. 19-25

(UWF) - [2 Wks. Ago]:

(CAPT. LOU'S CORNER) Albano

w. Firecat; Firecat d. Deathrow 3260; (LOU'S CORNER II) Mr. Red/Herb Abrams; Blackhearts d. Joe Defuria/Dave Johnson; Paul Orndorff vs. Bob Orton Jr. in progress at end. RESTHOLD. [Last Week]: Orndorff double DQ vs. Orton; (LOU'S CORNER) The Keeper/The Animal; (IN THIS CORNER) Albano/Abrams w. Bruno Sammartino & the 3 blast lack of wrestling, steroids. BOMB.

(SOUTH ATLANTIC) - Nazi Stormtroopers d. Jimmy Johnson/Tyrone Knox; Rob Zakowski draw vs. Ricky Nelson; Wahoo McDaniel d. Brad Anderson by DQ when Manny Fernandez runs in w. chair but Wahoo grabs chair & chases Manny; Ricky Starr d. Masked Terminator; Chris Chavis d. Smasher Stone; Fernandez d. David Isley. DRAW.

(WWF/SYN) - [CHALLENGE]: Legion of Doom d. Davi/Wisse; Big Bully Busich d. Mario Mancini; Kerry Von Erich d. Perez; Beverly Bros. d. Barry Hardy/Dwayne Gill; Davey Boy Smith d. Millson; Ted DiBiase d. Vince Apollo; (BARBER SHOP) Brutus Beefcake gives Sherri Martel a broom to ride to SUMMER SLAM; (SUMMER SLAM REPORT) Mean Gene w. final preview. RESTHOLD. [SUPERSTARS]: Ricky Steamboat d. Jim McPherson; (UPDATE) Jake Roberts-Warrior snake finale; Sgt. Slaughter d. Bill Pierce; Koko B. Ware d. Dick Wernick; (GUEST) Mean Gene w. Sid Justice; Natural Disasters d. Roy Garcia/Ross Greenburg; (S.S. REPORT); Other winners: I.R. Schyster, Bret Hart. RESTHOLD.

(GLOBAL/SYN) - [MAJOR LEAGUE]: Renegade Warriors d. Ed Robinson/El Diablo; Handsome Stranger d. Tom Davis when Mike Davis decks own "brother;" Bad News d. Rick Gerra; Bill Irwin d. Pvt. Terry Daniels; PYTs d. Chaz/Terry Garvin when Chris Love does tripup; (SEGMENT) 1st round lineup for North American tourney; Patriot d. Rod Price by DQ when Irwin runs in but Patriot ducks & Irwin superkicks Price. Patriot chases both. DRAW-PLUS.

(GLOBAL/ESPN) - [Wed.]: Review of tag team tourney; (COIN FLIP) Rip Rogers/Scott Anthony get bye. Chris Walker/Steve Simpson to meet Makhan Singh/Cactus Jack in first round-robin match Fri. NO RATING.

[Fri.]: {TAG TEAM ROUND-ROBIN FINALS} Walker/Simpson d. Singh/Cactus; (CHAMPIONSHIP) Walker/Simpson d. Rogers/Anthony to win belts. POWERSLAM.

(PRO WRESTLING '91) - Mad Dog Joe d. Damian Rogers; (GLOBAL) Stranger d. Price; (CLASSIC) Midnight Express d. Sonny Rogers/Steve O; Joel Deaton d. Eddie Sweat; (INTL/ALL-ASIAN TAG TITLE) Deaton/Billy Black d. Johnny Ace/Kenta Kobashi to win belts; Blazers d. Moose Mahoney/The Intruder; (FEATURE) Profile of Patriot. RESTHOLD.

(AWA: LOOKING BACK) - [1985] Road Warriors d. Curt & Larry Hennig; [1985] Verne & Greg Gagne d. Nick Bockwinkel/Mr. Saito. DRAW.

(IWCCW) - [RECAP] Ray Odyssey-Tasmaniac match; [FIRST-RUN] Odyssey d. Tasmaniac; T.D. Madison d. Cannonball; Curly Moe d. Invader IV. RESTHOLD.

(AAWF) - Dave Michaels/Dr. Love d. Avenger/Red Menace; Big O d. Stan Westmorling; Michael J. Starbuck d. Gene Spurlock; (SEG) Mgr. Mr. Wallstreet intros African Express. BOMB.

(SUNCOAST PRO) - Tito MacKenzie d. Pipeline Fever; Beef Wellington d. Lebanese Assassin; (ANGLE) Masked Superstar argues w. Full Force at announce desk; (SUNCOAST SOUTHERN TITLE) Brady

vs. Weston in progress as show ends. NO RATING.

(LPWA) - [RERUN]: Denise Storm d. Alma Alvarez; Nasty Girls d. Malaya Hosaka/Bambi by DQ when Bambi throws Nasties over top; [NON-TITLE] Reggie Bennett d. Lady X; (ANGLE) As Boni Blackstone talks post-match w. Reggie, Ashley Kennedy bashes Reg w. belt & Lady X chairs her; Queen's Court d. Susan Sexton/The Beast when Beast/Norman chase Chris Love, who steals Norm's rabbit Harvey; (LUMBERJACK MATCH) Terri Power d. Black Venus when Love fouls up & trips up Venus. DRAW-PLUS.

(USWA/WMC) - Jimmy Valiant d. Chris Frazier; (MID-SOUTH COL.) Eric Embry d. Valiant by DQ when Jimmy decks ref. Tom Prichard runs in & attacks Tony Anthony with Tony's crutch as Tony tries to save; (ANGLE) Embry/Prichard ambush Anthony at desk; Valiant saves w. trash can; Jeff Jarrett/Robert Fuller d. Scorpions; (VIDEO) Dragonmaster; (ANGLE) Chris Love rolls out crate w. Dragonmaster, says he's new USWA consultant, gives Jerry Lawler 2-week notice; (TX TITLE) Prichard vs. Rockin' Randy but Tom holds icebag on head, claims he can't defend. Randy says Tom should forfeit belt. Miss Texas slaps him and Tom joins until Embry/Valiant/Anthony come out for 6-way melee. Randy & Miss TX brawl all over studio; Awesome Kong/Bruiser d. Freezer Thompson/Gary Scott; (ANGLE) Bull Pain's valet Samantha fondles Humongous, tries to grab him to kiss & rips his hockey mask off to reveal "Be-Man" Randy Lewis, who is ambushed by Bull Pain until Jarrett/Fuller save. RESTHOLD.

(NCW/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Patriots d. Richard Myers/Black Bart; Johnny B. Badd d. Scott Sandlin; Enforcers d. Tom Zenk/Robert Gibson when ref stops it; (MISSY DOES MAIL) Magnum T.A. interview w. Lex Luger, Hyatt picks Lex to d. Ron Simmons; Dustin Rhodes d. Bubba Monroe; Hardliners d. Sting/Rick Steiner by DQ when Rick uses chair. DRAW.

[WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP]: Zenk d. Jim Boss; (ANGLE) Abdullah the Butcher comes out of box to attack Sting; Nikita Kholoff d. Chris Wilson; (CONTROL CENTER) Paul E. tells of Brian Pillman return, Simmons-Luger, El Gigante-One Man Gang saga; Oz d. Kevin Grant; Big Josh d. Sam Cody; (NCW WORLD TAG TOURNEY) Enforcers d. Patriots; P.N. News d. Orin Jones. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(NCW/SYN) - [NCW PRO]: P.N.W. d. Doug Button; (NWN) Gordon Solie on Pillman's return; Zenk d. Bob Cook; Rhodes d. Porkchop Cash; Simmons d. Arn Anderson; Patriots d. Bart/Jones; (REPLAYS) Luger/Harley Race/Curtis Hughes tripleteam Simmons until Barry Windham saves and subsequent triple ambush of Barry until Ron saves w. chair. RESTHOLD.

[WORLD WIDE]: No report.

(IWF) - (SEG) Home video from "Jeff Martin" of Denver shows Heartbreakers pinned by Hurricane Kid/Crocodile MacKenzie, so IWF prez Will Henley rules Kid/Croc to get tag title shot; Long Riders d. Nuclear Assassins; Chubby McCool d. Tom Sawyer; (ANGLE) Nasty Ronnie/The Possessor ambush Chubby; Mondo Kleen d. Dennis Allen; Thunder & Lightning d. Punisher/Purple Terror; Lou Perez/Chris Proctor d. Ric Diamond/Cliff Anderson by DQ for over-top; Possessor d. Joe Bruce. RESTHOLD.

(UIW) - Sledgehammer McGill/Mr. Bojangles d. Lords of Darkness

SCALE: PINKALL: Must
See PILEDRIVER - Excel-
lent. POWERSLAM - Good.
DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD
- Fair. BOMB - Poor.
PLUS - Midscale rating.

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LINES OF THE WEEK

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Roddy Piper, WWF-SU: "That belt is big---but not half as big as Flair's ego. It's even bigger than Heenan's mouth." 2. Paul E., **NEWSDAY**, on **PRO WRESTLING**

**TUBE
TALK**

UW will crown its first heavyweight champion Sept. 14 at a taping in Martinsville VA...Axl Rotten reportedly offered a WCW contract for a possible October start....JIM ROSS SHOW offered three phone updates on the Omni show on WSB Sunday night, including interview with Tom Zenk, who was DQ'd vs. Steve Austin...LARRY KATZ SHOW week before last had Big John Studd and Tiny Lister (Zeus), who had revealing comments about his WWF stint two years ago.

**STING WINS U.S. BELT
PATRIOT REGAINS N.A.****Tentative Card Listed****HUNCHBACKS TO DEBUT
ON HALLOWEEN???**

ATLANTA---While two months away, all is tentative, MATWATCH has learned the debut of a long-rumored team, The Hunchbacks, is scheduled at the Oct. 27 WCW HALLOWEEN HAVOC.

MATWATCH has received a preliminary HAVOC card which, along with a Lex Luger-Ron Simmons WCW world title match, includes The Hunchbacks vs. P.N. News and Big Josh. Two years ago, WCW toyed with developing a team to resemble actual hunchbacks.

Other tentative bouts: Richard Morton vs. Brian Pillman (likely a light heavyweight title match); Bobby Eaton vs. Terrence Taylor; Enforcers vs. Patriots in a world vs. U.S. tag title matchup; Tom Zenk vs. Halloween Phantom; Sting defending the U.S. belt vs. One-Man Gang; (TV TITLE) Steve Austin vs. Dustin Rhodes; Bill Kaszmeier vs. Cactus Jack; and a "Chamber of Horrors" match, an unspecified gimmick bout inside a maze.

Still uncertain of placement on the Chattanooga card: Barry Windham, Rick Steiner, the Young Pistols and the Freebirds.

WWF IN ERIE: Monday night's WRESTLING CHALLENGE taping saw Lanny Poffo (The Genius) debut as the Beverly Brothers' manager. Lanny is replacing John Tolos (Coach), whose gimmick unfortunately failed. The Mountie also issued his challenge against anyone and Sid Justice came out and punned him.

BARRY REPO: Barry Darsow finally became Repo Man in a Lone Ranger-type mask with no facepaint. Correspondent Chris Sig-gia tells us most of the crowd didn't recognize Darsow.

BARBER SHOPS: These were taped before SUMMER SLAM for air the weekends of Sept. 7, 14 and 21. An angle for the Erie crowd had Ted DiBiase "losing" the Million \$ Belt and two Barber Shops taped in which Virg and Ted separately discussed the belt loss. As a sleight-of-hand before SLAM, the crowd was told the decision was reversed and the belt returned to Ted.

OTHER TAPING NOTES: Legion of Doom teamed with Big Bossman in a 6-man to best the Natural Disasters and Mountie when Ray Traylor pinned Rougeau.

TRIANGLE SPLITS: Col. Mustafa worked Erie but Gen. Adnan, nor Sgt. Slaughter did, which hinted at the Slaughter turn.

ANOTHER FALL: About 7,000 were in Erie. In another bout, Sid beat the Barbarian, which may have been for PRIME TIME.

ALL WEEK LONG: GLOBAL SUPERCARD airs every day this week after only a Wednesday and Friday airing last week.

GWF RATINGS UPDATE: GLOBAL scored a 1.1 average on ESPN for its second two weeks (the light heavyweight tourney), the highest daytime wrestling rating ever for ESPN.

BETTER IDEAS?: Pedicino has taken his lumps in some bulletins for four tourneys in a row on ESPN. Says Joe: "ESPN asked for 39 first-run shows in nine weeks. Considering the cost of production, it was the most efficient way to do it. If anybody has any better ideas on how to do it within our budget, I'd be happy to listen."

Seven months after losing the WCW world title, Sting has captured the U.S. heavyweight championship in an 11-man tournament at the Omni Sunday night. The win followed by two nights The Patriot (Del Wilkes) recapturing the Global North American belt in a remake of an Aug. 10 bout.

Sting took the finale over WCW TV champion Steve Austin by reversing a small package hold before an estimated 6,000. Austin had gained the finals with disqualification wins over Tom Zenk and Barry Windham. Sting knocked off Arn Anderson and The Diamond Stud in preliminary rounds.

In other first-round action, Stud d. Bobby Eaton with his foot on the ropes; the Yellow Dog and Johnny B. Badd went to a draw (both eliminated); and Richard Morton ended in a double countout vs. Dustin Rhodes (who juiced, both eliminated).

In Dallas, an estimated 1,000 turned out for the 17-minute Patriot victory over Perez, which ended when Eddie Gilbert came to ringside and---in an attempt to help Perez---decked Al, who was cradled by The Patriot for the North American title. Perez and Gilbert started a rhubarb afterward, setting up a series between the two with Perez as babyface.

ALSO AT THE OMNI: Luger held onto the WCW world belt vs. Simmons when, during a ref bump, Race and Hughes worked Ron over & set up the pin. Windham came for the save but he & Ron juiced. Eaton, P.N.N. and Dustin finally cleared the ring.

FLORIDA TOUR: Good news and bad news from the WCW Florida BASH swing. Jacksonville drew 5,300 Saturday night---one of the top crowds of the summer tour. But St. Pete (2,300), Fort Pierce (840) and Miami (952) were weak spots.

JAX SWITCH: Luger was to be in Jacksonville's WAR GAMES but card was changed. Sting/Yellow Dog/Windham/El Gigante/Windham d. OMG/Sullivan/Anderson/Cactus Jack. OMG vs. Dog opened but heat came when Arn taunted Barry with 4 Horsemen sign. Nikita Koloff was a no-show. Lex d. Bobby Eaton.

CAGE CAPERS: Time was, cage matches were definitive ends with no interference. But in St. Pete, Sting & Nikita had a 5-minute cager ending in a DQ with a Cactus Jack run-in.

IS RACE THE NEW J.J.?: In the Luger-Windham title match in St. Pete, Lex won when Harley Race gave Barry what was termed one of the lightest pops to the head in history.

UWF CANCELS: Herb Abrams canceled skedded taping Saturday amid continued speculation the end is near for UWF.

GLOBAL WARFARE: Makham Singh (Mike Shaw) took on Scorpio (Tony Falk) in a TV bout. Good heat for a PYTs vs. Chaz/Terry Garvin tag-teamer and a new team, The American Breed, debuted.

CLASSIC EDDIE: Not only did Gilbert stir the pot for the Patriot-Perez match, Eddie delivered what was called one of the best sleight-of-hand moves in a win over Steve Cox.

MONDAY IN MEMPHIS: A Jerry Lawler-Dragonmaster USWA title match topped seven bouts, including Bull Pain vs. Humongous; M.C. Slammer vs. Tom Prichard; Bill Dundee in a light heavy title rematch vs. Danny Davis; USWA tag title: Jeff Jarrett/Robert Fuller vs. Awesome Kong/Bruiser; Eric Embry/Prichard vs. Jimmy Valiant/Tony Anthony; and Rockin' Randy vs. Miss TX.

SLAM SPECIALS GRAB TOP TWO SPOTS

Though its second showing fell off sharply from last year's repeat of **SUMMER SLAM FEVER**, the WWF's **SUMMER SLAM SPECTACULAR** dominated Nielsen cable ratings for the week ending Aug. 19.

The Sunday night **SPECTACULAR** rolled up a 3.6 rating and 6.9 per cent share of audience, matching last year's rating for the Sunday **FEVER** but up from 1990's 6 share. **SPECTACULAR** was seen in 2.06 million homes, compared to **FEVER**'s 1.93 million.

Monday's repeat was down 22% from last year's 3.7/6 for **FEVER**'s encore. Still, the Monday **SPECTACULAR** posted a 2.9/4.7 for the runner-up slot. The two nights were seen in a combined 3.72 million homes, compared to 3.9 million last year.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING rallied for its strongest rating since April 20, jumping to a 2.7 and a 6.6% share. **WCW** vaulted 23% over the previous week.

ALL-AMERICAN WRESTLING slipped 19% to a 2.1 after finishing in a virtual tie for first last week.

Returning to its usual 9:05 a.m. (EDT) time, **POWER HOUR** rebounded from its all-time low last week for a 67% increase to a 1.5. **WCW MAIN EVENT** was pre-empted.

CABLE

Week Ending Aug. 19	Rating/Share	Homes	Year Ago
WWF S. SLAM SPEC. (USA 8/18)	3.6/6.9	2.06 million	3.6/5.9
WWF S. SLAM SPEC. (USA 8/19)	2.9/4.7	1.66 million	3.7/6.0
WCW WORLD CHAMP. (TBS 8/17)	2.7/6.6	1.56 million	2.9/7.1
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 8/18)	2.1/6.7	1.20 million	2.3/6.5
WCW POWER HOUR (TBS 8/17)	1.5/7.3	864,000	N/A
WCW MAIN EVENT (TBS)	Pre-Empted		3.0/6.7

ENCORE, ENCORE: Saturday's Patriots-Enforcers TV match was reshot from its original taping.

Voiceovers were done Friday; hence, topical Gorbachev remarks.

RAIN, RAIN GO AWAY: **WCW MAIN EVENT** bumped Sunday because of a Braves game which had a 2-hour rain delay; this Saturday, no **WCW** Saturday to make way for the season SEC football opener (Ole Miss-Tulane) at 3:30 and a 7 p.m. Braves-Phillies game.

CLASH WORRIES: TBS execs hope for a 4 rating out of **CLASH XVI** next week but privately worry if it will even hit a 3.5.

WCBS HYPE: Paul E. Dangerously profiled in recent stories in **LONG ISLAND NEWSDAY**, the **NEWARK STAR-LEDGER** and **LONG ISLAND NEWSDAY** to build the move of **PRO WRESTLING N.Y.** to **WCBS-TV**.

DANGEROUSLY SLY: Paul E. was also pictured in the **NEW YORK DAILY NEWS** "Slammer" column at a China Club surprise party for the **WCBS** move. Standing next to Paul: Sylvester Stallone.

DAVE'S LAMENT: The Aug. 17 **UIW** tapings drew 88 people. Major angle: Dave (The Wave) McAllister lost his color mike slot to Kevin (The Truth) Casey in a complex run-in finish.

LPWA TAPING: Ladies now skedded for Sept. 21 tape date at Gray Civic Center in Albany if no more cash problems develop.
(Continued on next column)

FINAL MATWATCH SUBSCRIPTION PLAN

After last week's announcement of the retirement of **MATWATCH** after Jan. 27, we offer our final subscription plan for remaining issues.

Check your mailing labels. If the expiration date listed is the following, the cost to take you through the final issue will be listed in parentheses:

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These are U.S./CANADA closing subscription rates. Next week, in an insert to overseas subscribers, we will publish their final subscription rates.

Until Nov. 4, we will honor our standard 5-issue and 11-issue subscription rates of: (U.S./CANADA) \$6 for 5 issues, \$12 for 11; (OVERSEAS) \$9 for 5 issues, \$18 for 11.

NO MORE 16-ISSUE ORDERS AT OLD RATES

The gift offer is still valid through Oct. 1: a 6-issue gift set (not to yourself or anyone at your same address) is \$3 and you receive two bonus issues.

CHECK, CASH or MONEY ORDER to: **MATWATCH**, 16 ROBIN HOOD LANE, JACKSON TN 38305.

IT WAS HAIR: In the Argentina vs. hair match at the Omni, El Gigante d. One Man Gang but the hair which came off was OMG's beard and moustache.

HE'S BAAAACK: Announced for Oct. 12 at the Omni: Windham Simmons vs. Luger/Hughes with Dusty Rhodes as special ref.

GOING IN STYLE?: Kevin Sullivan, in his Omni swan song, went after Japanese photogs and Dennis Brent at ringside during the OMG-Gigante match. Told it was great comedy.

AWA TO REGAIN MONDAYS?: Verne Gagne said to be still lobbying with ESPN to regain Mondays for his "classics" show.

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